

JULY 1987 NEWSLETTER FORESTRY LANDS & WILDLIFE



Doubling capacity of Hinton pulpmill will create 370 permanent new jobs

A major pulpmill expansion planned by Champion Forest Products Ltd. at Hinton is expected to give a healthy boost to the area's economy.

The construction phase of the \$300 million project will provide 1,140 person years of employment, and when the expanded plant begins operations it will create 370 permanent new jobs, generating an additional \$1.5 million per month in the Hinton-Edson region.

Champion plans to fund a portion of the total cost from internal cash flow and borrow up to \$225 million from a major lender to finance the balance. The Alberta government is guaranteeing the company's loan for a fee, thus allowing Champion to borrow at a lower interest rate and keep down its operating costs.

When expansion is completed in 1989, the pulpmill capacity will be doubled to 424,000 short tons (384 650 metric tonnes) per year. Environmental standards to be achieved at the mill will make it among the cleanest bleached kraft pulpmills in Canada.

In announcing approval of the project, Hon. Don Sparrow, Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, said the government recognizes forestry as an important element of the drive to diversify the Alberta economy. "This new mill modernization, coupled with other announcements in the forest industry during the past two years, is proof of our determination to have forestry play a bigger role."

Hon. Ian Reid, Minister of Labour and MLA for West Yellowhead, noted that Champion is the main employer in the Hinton region and called it a first-class corporate citizen. "It has demonstrated its long-term support of the area through development of recreation and tourism facilities at a rate of about \$80 000 a year."

The Champion operation has three main components: a sawmill, which produces about 75 million board feet per year; forest resources, involving regen-

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Major surge seen in forest projects

Forestry development is on the move in Alberta.

The Alberta government has assisted a number of forestry projects during the past two years as part of its program to diversify the provincial economy.

Two of the projects - expansion of the Champion pulpmill at Hinton, and upgrading the British Columbia Forest Products sawmill at Grande Cache - are described in this newsletter. The other projects - and the estimated employment created - are:

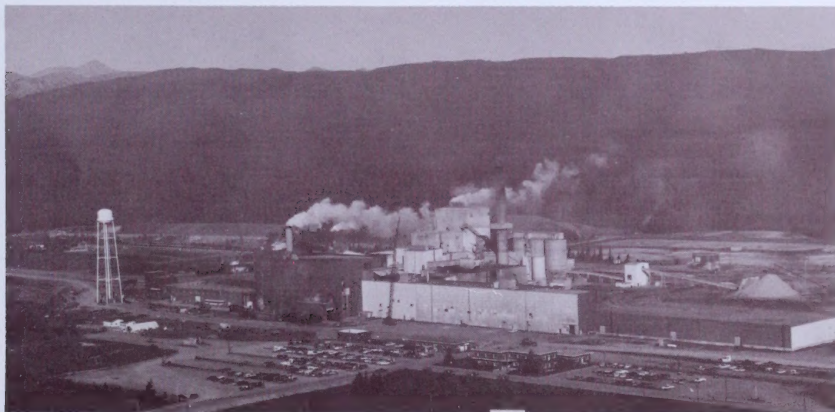
- Millar Western Industries Ltd. (chemi-thermo-mechanical pulpmill, Whitecourt), 1 095 direct and indirect jobs;
- Pelican Spruce Mills Ltd. (oriented strand board plant, Drayton Valley), 875 direct and indirect jobs;
- Weldwood Canada Ltd. (convert waferboard to oriented strand board, Slave Lake), saved 308 direct and indirect jobs;
- Proctor & Gamble Cellulose Ltd. (modify pulpmill, future use of aspen, Grande Prairie);
- Sunpine Forest Products Ltd. (upgrade sawmill and add wood-treating facility, Sundre), 222 direct and indirect jobs;
- Atlas Lumber Ltd. (upgrade sawmill, Sentinel), 200 direct and indirect jobs.

Expansion of the forest industry is occurring throughout the province. In the past year, Alberta Energy opened an MDF plant at Blue Ridge (150 direct and indirect jobs), Mostowitch Lumber Ltd. opened a new sawmill at Fox Creek (100 direct and indirect jobs), Jager Industries upgraded its OSB wood I-beam plant at Calgary (25 direct and indirect jobs), and Cowley Forest Products in Cowley upgraded its sawmill. The above projects have resulted in a total of 2 975 direct and indirect jobs.

Additional projects are under review and can be expected to be announced within the year.

In 1986 the government established the Forest Industry Development Division, under Executive Officer J.A. Brennan, to promote further use of the province's vast timber resources.

Forestry, Lands and Wildlife Minister Don Sparrow says: "We encourage the forest industry and all Albertans to come forward with additional projects to assist in the diversification of our great province."



Champion Forest Products pulpmill: \$300 million expansion



Kakwa falls: outstanding feature enjoyed by Albertans

Character of falls to be preserved as Kakwa named second wildland area

The Alberta government has designated the Wild Kakwa Forest Land Use Zone, 160 km southwest of Grande Prairie, as the province's second Wildland Recreation Area.

Covering 647 km² (250 sq. mi.) of alpine and sub-alpine terrain, the Wild Kakwa Wildland Recreation Area provides excellent wildlife habitat and opportunities for numerous wildland recreational activities. Kakwa Falls is an outstanding feature of the area, which is bounded by Willmore Wilderness Park to the south and southwest, the British Columbia border to the west, and Sulfur Ridge to the north.

"Albertans have enjoyed Wild Kakwa for a long time," said Hon. Don Sparrow, Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife. "By officially designating it as a Wildland Recreation Area we hope to preserve the character of the Kakwa River and falls region."

Last year a large tract immediately adjacent to Banff and Jasper national

parks was named the Bighorn Wildland Recreation Area. Wildland Recreation Areas are established to provide high-quality back-country recreation experiences while protecting environmentally sensitive resources - watershed, fisheries, wildlife, ecology and wildland.

Management of the Wild Kakwa Wildland Recreation Area will reflect traditional uses in the region.

"We intend to work with all user groups in order to provide the best access routes for the area," said Mr. Sparrow. To date, motor vehicle access routes to Kakwa Lake and Kakwa Falls have been designated.

Recreation opportunities at Wild Kakwa include trail riding, hiking, snowmobiling, nature and wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, heli-skiing and heli-hiking.

"The new recreation area will continue to emphasize wildland experiences requiring a minimum of facilities," said the minister.

Investment saves Grande Cache jobs

In a move to protect more than 750 direct and indirect jobs, the Alberta government is investing \$5 million in the Grande Cache sawmill operated by British Columbia Forest Products Ltd.

The investment, in the form of preferred shares, will provide funds to purchase new equipment and upgrade existing equipment in the five-year-old mill to make the operation more competitive.

The mill now produces 100 million board feet of lumber annually - dimension spruce, pine and fir, as well as stress-rated lumber - and exports 60-65 per cent of its output to the United States. It employs 165 person at the

site, plus 150 in woodland and construction jobs. Seasonal workers number about 75.

Hon. Don Sparrow, Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, says the sawmill is very important to the area's economy, and calls the financial aid an excellent example of the province investing in its own future. "I'm certain," he added, "that this venture will have positive impact."

A subsidiary of BCFP will be incorporated federally and registered in Alberta to own and operate the \$40 million mill. The government is to receive an annual nine per cent dividend on its share investment.

38 awarded prizes

Thirty-eight students from across Alberta were winners in this year's Wildlife Week awards program. Eleven of the provincial winners now go on to compete at the national level.

Each year during Wildlife Week students and schools across Canada are encouraged to participate in the program by submitting posters, displays, poetry or other work with a wildlife theme. Judging is done at the provincial level, with winners receiving a wildlife book and a Wildlife '87 pin. This year Alberta winners also received a letter of congratulation from Hon. Don Sparrow, Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife.

More than 500 entries were submitted in Alberta, indicating the popularity of the program with students. All projects were judged on three main points: an understanding and effective expression of the theme; proficiency with the chosen medium; and biological accuracy.

National winners were Chris Gilpin, Melanie Lu, Leah Rous and Vince Sinclair, all of Edmonton; David Bzdel and Lorna Maschke, of Wainwright; Cara Neveu, Hythe; Serena Mohamed, Calgary; Sheri Miller and Diana Towers, of Alliance; and the Grade 6 class of Miss Dick and Mr. Bradley, Horsehill School.

Provincial winners were Melina Dharma Wardine, Jessica Yawnghwe and Rene Grosso, of Edmonton; Trevor Ott, Kelsey Walton, Danny Haire, and Joanna Coleman, of Wainwright; Rhonda Richards and Karen Goodwin, of Athabasca; Kristy Williams, Mike T., Mathew J., Karen Seal, Carlene Maglis, and Serena Mohamed, of Calgary; Sean Sequin, Kris Deufield, Wayne Bannick, Ian Wachowicz and Chris Goodbrand, of Youngston; Chelsea Tomlinson, Radway; Andy Jensen and Chris Saverwein, of Lundbreck; Travis Harty, Medicine Hat; Tania Encloldson, Fox Creek; Jason Dixon, Exshaw; and Jason Kostiuk, Whitecourt.

An Alberta Fish and Wildlife representative presented prizes to the winners at awards ceremonies at their schools.



Bridge guidelines aimed at saving fish population

Two provincial departments have teamed up to prepare guidelines aimed at reducing the impact of bridge construction on fish populations.

"Fish Habitat Protection Guidelines for Stream Crossings" is the work of the Bridge Engineering Branch of Alberta Transportation and Utilities and the Fish and Wildlife Division of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife.

The 22-page booklet notes that the economic assessment of a proposed bridge should include the value of the fish resource and how construction may affect this resource.

"A co-operative effort, based on objective views of site-specific programs, by engineers and biologists is required to achieve cost-effective stream crossings with minimal adverse effects on the environment," it states. "In many cases in-stream activities can be scheduled to avoid conflicts with fish migration, spawning and incubation periods."

The intent of the guidelines, which apply to waterways carrying any of 16 species of Alberta game fish, is to:

- protect and maintain fish habitat
- allow for free movement of fish
- inform road proponents, designers

contractors and project managers of fish concerns associated with stream crossings

- provide relief measures where conflicts may occur between construction and long-term protection of fish population and habitat

- provide guidance to Transportation staff for crossings on fish-bearing

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Appointment

The Forest Industry Development Division has appointed Ed Gillespie as Director of the Forest Industry Branch.

Mr. Gillespie worked with Boise-Cascade Canada before joining the Alberta Forest Service in 1978, where he served in several positions with the Timber Management Branch. For the past two years he has been responsible for Alberta's responses to the U.S. countervailing duty petitions on lumber exported to the U.S. and the subsequent agreement involving the softwood lumber export charge.

In his new position, Mr. Gillespie is responsible for dealing with forest development projects proposed by the private sector.

Competing resource uses integrated in local plan for Bear River- Wapiti

A local integrated resource plan for Bear River-Wapiti has been approved by Hon. Don Sparrow, Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife.

The plan area, covering about 40 sections immediately south and east of Grande Prairie, features two major river valleys and ecologically fragile sand dunes, mixed with low bogs.

A joint request for a plan was made by the City and County of Grande Prairie. They recognized the need to integrate a number of competing uses that had already severely disturbed the sand dune ecosystem covering much of the area. These uses included a range of outdoor recreation activities, country residential, domestic grazing, industrial development, and resource exploration and extraction.

In the plan, a team from Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, the County of Grande Prairie and the City of Grande Prairie uses five sub-areas to integrate the various resource uses. It has prepared a list of activities considered suitable for each sub-area plus activities that should not be permitted. Detailed objectives and guidelines for each resource within the sub-areas are also provided.

The plan, which applies only to public lands, resolves existing and potential conflicts and provides positive,

future-oriented direction for management of a wide range of resources - recreation, tourism, ecological, fish, wildlife, watershed, historical, timber grazing and mineral. Use of the resources provides a corresponding broad range of social and economic benefits to area residents. The overall management intent is to allow for the use of the full range of available resources, while recognizing environmental and recreational considerations. A recreational access plan is now being prepared.

Grazing capability in the plan area is low, but current lessees will be able to retain their leases as long as they use the area.

A public involvement program was completed during plan development and a wide range of comments was received. Public support for both environmental and recreational use of the area was evident. There was significant opposition to industrial development and resource extraction.

Copies of the plan may be obtained from:

Information Centre
Energy/Forestry, Lands and Wildlife
Main floor, Bramalea Building
9920-108 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2M4



Bear River-Wapiti scene: a fragile ecosystem

Two Alberta teams competing in Utah



Fort Saskatchewan and Sundre teams, leaders greeted by Hon. Don Sparrow (centre, front)

Teams from Fort Saskatchewan and Sundre will represent Alberta at the annual North American Hunter Education Tournament in Utah this August.

The Alberta teams won the third annual provincial competition held last spring at the Alford Lake Conservation and Education Centre, 85 km southwest of Red Deer, operated by the Fish and Wildlife Division of Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife.

More than 25 teams from across the province took part in the weekend event, with Fort Saskatchewan capturing most points in the junior high division and Sundre emerging as the top senior group.

The competition, organized by

volunteers, features events in shooting (both shotguns and rifles), survival skills, use of maps and compasses, wildlife identification and archery equipment. Participants take classes in the subjects at school before doing the practical exercises at Alford Lake.

Edmontonians Dan Merrills and his wife Cathy developed the idea for the annual competition and took the concept first to the Fish and Wildlife Division and then to Washington, D.C., where the National Rifle Association agreed to be sponsor.

Alberta is the only province participating in the Utah championship. It is pitted against more than 15 American states.

Award for hunter education program

Alberta Fish and Wildlife's Conservation and Hunter Education Program has again received an award from the National Rifle Association, based in Washington, D.C.

The NRA presented Fish and Wildlife with a plaque for its "significant contribution in the field of firearms safety and hunter education," placing Alberta's program in the top ten in North America.

This marks the second Top Ten NRA award the Fish and Wildlife Division has received for the program, says Tom Bateman, co-ordinator of Hunter Training in the Public Information and Extension Branch. When the current program was launched in 1983, an award from NRA termed it the outstanding hunter education program in North America.

Several agencies now use the curriculum material, says Mr. Bateman, and the NRA at one point obtained permission to publish the Alberta manual as its basic hunter's guide.

Alberta has also received annual awards for its instruction certification programs, offered through the Instruction Development Academy at the Forest Technology School in Hinton.



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eration, harvesting and harvest haul; and pulping, with current production of 600 air-dried tons of bleached kraft pulp per day. The Hinton mill currently employs about 780 persons.

Half the Hinton pulp output is used by Champion International, the parent company, to produce paper, while the other half is sold on the world market.

Under a 20-year forest management agreement, the Hinton mill draws on two million acres of forested land operated on a sustained yield basis. The company builds and maintains publicly available access roads in the agreement area and raises more than two million seedlings yearly in its own greenhouses as part of its reforestation program.

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streams not requiring assessment through the normal referral process.

General guidelines are given for such work as clearing, grubbing and stripping, construction in and adjacent to streams, and reclamation and site-clean-up. Additional guidelines cover such specific crossings as bridges, culverts, ice bridges, fords and log fill bridges.

Further information on the guidelines may be obtained from local Fish and Wildlife offices.

More Information?

If you would like more information on the contents of this newsletter or any other information on the policies or programs for forestry, lands and wildlife in Alberta, please write or telephone the Communications Branch, at the address below.

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